

## CAPE GIRARDEAU TRIBUNE

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JAMES P. WHITESIDE, Editor.

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Second Class Matter.THEY LIE IN FRANCE  
WHERE LILLIES BLOOM

They lie in France  
Where lillies bloom;  
Those flowers pale  
That guard each tomb  
Are saintly souls  
That smiling stand  
Close by them in  
That martyred land.

And mutely there the long night shadows creep  
From quiet hills to mourn for them who sleep,  
While over them through the dusk go silently  
The grieving clouds that slowly drift to sea,  
And stately round them moaned the Winter wind  
Whose voice, lamenting, sounds so coldly kind.  
Yet in their faith those waiting hearts abide  
The time when turns forever that false tide.

In France they lie  
Where lillies bloom;  
Those flowers fair  
For them made room.  
Not vainly placed  
The crosses stand  
Within that brave  
And stricken land;  
Their loved ones lives,  
Their love endures  
Their noble death  
The right assures.

For they shall have their heart's desire  
They who, unflinching, braved the fire,  
Across the fields their eyes at last shall see  
Through clouds and mist the hosts of victory.

—Percival Allen, in the New York Times.

## WAR TAXES AFTER PEACE IS SIGNED.

The heavy expense will continue for a long time and that taxes will be reduced only gradually, are the points of an article recently printed in the Financial World. The writer says:

"A fifth and possibly a sixth Liberty Loan will have to be sold, irrespective of whether a peace treaty is signed or not. That means the U. S. will have to continue its present scheme of taxation and bond issues for some time, though the total of the bond issues and the taxation will gradually lessen. With more than \$6,000,000,000 Liberty Bonds just sold, the total of Liberty Loan issues is now close to \$16,000,000,000. Annual interest charge and sinking fund requirements will total somewhere in the neighborhood of \$650,000,000, and it will take at least a year and a half to demobilize the Army and Navy and place them once again on a peace basis. We must therefore count our yearly expenditures in billions instead of hundreds of millions. That being so, 1919 is not likely to bring about any modification of the 1918 revenue act now being framed. Two more Liberty Loans and a continuation of the taxation based on the 1918 act seems assured at least. Indeed, it may not be until the winter session of Congress of 1922 that modification of war taxes can be considered.

"Two months after the surrender of Gen. Lee in 1865, the War Department's expenditures had reached \$1,053,000,000, and twelve months later the War Department had succeeded in reducing the Army expenses to \$283,154,000, but the revenue from taxes, which had been \$627,283,000 in the year 1865, was \$55,717,000 in the fiscal year of 1866. The War Department cut its expense in the year after the Spanish war from \$229,841,000 to \$134,770,000, but the revenue from taxation increased from \$405,321,000 to \$515,900,000. In other words, Congress allowed war taxes to go on for a time after peace so as to cut down quickly a considerable share of the war cost and then too, Government loans being abandoned, reliance on taxation alone for revenue precluded any sudden reduction in taxes. After each war the United States has been in, it has been the policy of Congress to reduce or abolish the most onerous tax burdens, but income taxation and much of the internal revenue taxation will continue for some years and remind us that the cost of war does not instantly cease the moment peace is declared."

## SILENCE OVER VERDUM.

In the night time  
Under the bright moon  
Felt here and there gray spirits  
Of the dead  
And creeping things crawled back  
Into the shadows.

But in the silver dawn  
When the sun kissed the dew wet poppies  
And the first gold rays light upon  
A silent cannon  
It reveals a mother bird  
Hopping to feed her young  
In their nest in the mouth  
Of the big gun  
And in the nest is a sudden fluttering  
Of the young wings that betoken  
Happiness.

—C. S. Y.

Many metropolitan papers are excusing the extravagant use of money at the Hog Island navy yards on the grounds that extravagance was necessary to get speed. In as much as only one ship was finished during the war at the Hog Island yards, and this vessel improperly riveted, it would seem that the only speed displayed was in spending money.

Col. Roosevelt and Mr. Taft take the position that the United States was only in the war to carry the hog, and now that it is over the duty of the American delegate to the peace conference is merely to sit still and nod bashfully when our Allies have agreed upon a program. There is much to be thankful for when we consider we only have two living presidents.

## SENATOR REED AS THE WATCH DOG.

Senator Reed, who was chairman of the Senate Committee's inquiry into the sugar famine, a short time ago, almost broke up the meeting when he interrupted the testimony given by Earl D. Babst, head of the American Sugar Refining Company, and Mr. Hoover's chairman of the International Committee on sugar.

Babst had denied that he and the other members of the committee had fixed the price of the Cuban sugar crop.

"Your committee controls the purchase of all Cuban sugar and all other sugars from Antigua, France, Italy and Great Britain, does it not," asked Senator Reed.

"Yes," replied the sugar trust man.

"Then, why doesn't it fix the prices?"

"We have no power to fix prices. We can only arrange a price above which we will not approve purchases," was Mr. Babst's answer.

"The gentleman takes the position of a man in the murder trial—it was not the bullet, but the whole in the man's heart that caused death," interrupted the Missouri Senator.

Mr. Babst thereupon charged the Senate Committee with an attempt to show that his company had profited when other sugar went up to the price asked for Cuban sugar. We do not know that the Senate attempted to show that Mr. Babst had benefitted by the appointment he received from Mr. Hoover, but it is apparent to all that Babst should not have been placed in this important position.

It is not necessary to put a trust man in charge of a commodity which his company apparently controls. That has been the trouble with so many of Mr. Hoover's appointments.

Newspapers are naturally charging that Senator Reed was unfair in this inquiry, but we can see no danger from an investigation of this kind. President Wilson enthusiastically endorsed them.

It is silly to say that Senator Reed hoped to embarrass President Wilson by making his sugar investigation thorough. President Wilson could not be expected to look after everything at one time or to be everywhere at once. He expected Congress to assist him in protecting the Government and the people.

There is no horse so gentle that it can be driven without a bridle under all circumstances, and there is no governmental machine that will operate perpetually and well without supervision. This was all Senator Reed attempted to do. He has been called "the watchdog at Washington," and the public has been convinced that anyone who attempts to trespass where he keeps vigil is in danger of being treed.

## The Hog Island Hogs At Work

The Congressional Record gives a complete reply of Senator Vandamm of Mississippi to the charge of misrepresentation made recently by Rear Admiral Francis T. Bowles, assistant general manager of the Emergency Fleet Corporation. Senator Vandamm had made charges of graft against certain officials engaged in the Hog Island Navy ship building yards.

In his answer to Bowles, the Senator said, in part:

Mr. Vandamm. Mr. President, years ago I would have experienced an unbelieved delight in taking satisfaction on the carcass of the self-convinced conscienceless slanderer who uttered that telegram. But I have passed that stage in moral growth. I have come to the conclusion that nothing is proven by physical combat except the superiority of brute force and the determination of that I have won.

Now, what I said about the Hog Island enterprise was uttered upon the floor of this chamber as a United States Senator under the sanctity of an oath to uphold the Constitution, the laws of the country, and protect the interests of the American people against the greed, cupidity, avarice, and criminality of the outlaws of society. I was discussing a public enterprise that no honest man could defend in all of its details. It is one of these peculiar enterprises that have grown up since the declaration of war, which was conceived by its promoters in private life in the sin of selfishness and brought forth swaddled in the American flag to serve a selfish purpose.

Let us for a moment consider its history. A number of highly respectable financiers came together, formed a corporation bought a hog wallow, which was rightly named "Hog Island," capitalized it at probably double or treble of its real value, and then leased it to the United States for a site for a shipbuilding plant. The land was valued at \$1,700,000 and the rent charged the Government of the United States was 6 per cent on estimated value of the land, if my memory serves me correctly. The same corporation undertook and agreed to build the Government of the United States paying all expenses, this shipbuilding plant at an estimated cost of \$21,000,000, without fees or plus per cent.

The profits which the shipbuilding corporation was to receive as a commission for the patriotic service to be rendered by it was 4 per cent on the value of the ships to be built by this plant. The work in the construction of the plant had not proceeded very far, however, before it was terminated by the corporation, which we are told was organized for patriotic purposes, that the building might be facilitated by subletting contracts at a fixed fee of 5 per cent upon the estimated cost of the work.

Some of the contractors, it appeared from the testimony, had stock in the parent corporation with which the Government contracted to build the plant without fees. Everyone knows who has paid any attention to the investigation of this enterprise, that in the beginning of the building of the plant the grossest extravagance in

the payment of wages, the most glaring incompetency was shown in the purchase of material, and in the general management of the company. Every man called to the service of this corporation had his wages doubled, and in some instances, quadrupled. The head man who had been the directing head of the contracting firm of Stone & Webster, who received from Stone & Webster \$12,000 per year while serving them, was put at the head of the shipbuilding corporation with a salary of \$25,000 per year. For everything that was done of a similar nature the United States Government was charged and plundered accordingly.

It will also be remembered that when this corporation had under construction of the Hog Island ship plant it tried to induce the Government to fix its commission for the work it was to perform at 10 per cent, but it was finally forced down to, I think, 5 per cent. When asked by members of the committee to show what the constructing corporation had done or was to do to justify its asking the government to pay it 5 per cent on the ships to be built in the Hog Island yard, we were told that it was the "know how" which they were furnishing the Government, and Mr. President, I want to say just here that, after looking over the matter carefully, I am within the bounds of conservatism when I say that there was not a member of that corporation who knew any more about shipbuilding than the Democratic emblem does about the nebular hypothesis or a prairie dog knows about the political economy of the planet Mars. It was just a piece of graft, pure and simple, but they justified their extraordinary demand by saying that, if the members of the corporation did not themselves know anything about shipbuilding, the corporation furnished the Government of the United States men who didn't know how. With the salaries that were paid the men, certainly the United States Government did not need the corporation to act as its labor agent in securing capable men to do Government work, especially when you consider the fact that the Government paid twice and three times as much for their services as they could have gotten from private employers in the labor markets of the country.

I want the United States Government to deal fairly with and justly with its citizens, but I think that every dollar the government pays to this corporation as commission on ships built by the shipbuilding plant at Hog Island will be nothing less than robbery of the Public Treasury.

Mr. President, I was just about to overlook the fact that the plant which these profits for profit were to construct at an estimated cost of \$21,000,000, I am told, cost over \$20,000,000; and I think it has completed but one ship. Of course I want to be fair with them. I am sure they have a good many ships on the ways. I will ask the chairman of the Committee on Commerce to correct me if I am mistaken. I think the corporation has completed but one ship. Am I correct about that?

I remember when the President of

## The Washday Before Christmas



this corporation came before this committee. He made the most glorious promises. He said: "We want to build the ships; we want to win the war; send us to the penitentiary after we win the war; but let us build ships." Of course, the fact, that 4 or 5 per cent was paid them upon the value of every ship constructed had nothing to do with that burst of patriotism on his part.

There are some people in this country who seem to regard it as their God-given privilege, belonging exclusively to them, to wrap their well-fed carcasses in the American flag, and with the words of patriotism upon their flyblown, impious lips, go over the country denouncing everybody who dares question their right to continue this nefarious business. I, for one, shall continue to denounce it and to call attention to it. As soon as I get hold of the report of the Department of Justice which deals with this question and can again go

over more carefully the investigations of the Commerce Committee I shall have more to say on the subject. In the meantime I hope the Commerce Committee will go further in the matter and make a report of the results of investigation. Let the pitiless sunlight of publicity shine in upon the dark and devious ways of the patriots for peripatetic. Let every other enterprise which is tainted with fraud undergo similar investigation. It is more necessary than the Republic shall be preserved and the people saved from plunder than that the delicate feeling of those dollar-hearted, scoundrel-souled sinners shall be respected.

I repeat, Mr. President, the Hog Island enterprise is a disgrace to the administration. It is an affront to every man who wears a uniform at home or wears his life for his country in the trenches of France. It is an outrage upon the feeling, the respect of the land.

## Seein' Things At Night

Editor Tribune:

The local daily paper of this city has been decrying columns of their sheet to tell the public of the great injustice done by a certain judge of this city.

It goes to the mat over the fact that a certain person was found for sleeping on the wrong side of the street in an automobile, the fine amounting to \$5 for this offense. And then sarcastically remarks the same judge fined a man one dollar for beating his "defective" wife. We presume the sheet was referring to a recent writup about a man who works on main street. It is said that this one particular case was badly misrepresented and that busy-

body neighbors caused the trouble. At any rate, the man who beat his wife is living with her and providing an honest living and the quarrel was only incidental and the trouble with which he was vexed to his feelings and muscle was occasioned over the fact that his man had spoiled him by cooking certain delicacies and letting him keep his motive machines in the parlor. We would suggest that if there is as many busy-bodies as they say we have in this city, will spend more time in watching and teaching part of their own "youngins" there will be less real news for the live daily paper with a our bounds.

—Kris Kringle

NEW PLACES FOR  
GIRL WAR WORKERSFederal Machinery Hope To Find  
Jobs For All Who Wish To  
Remain

Washington, Dec. 24—In the endless procession of young soldiers that is passing through the Union Station here since the ending of war are many young women. Among the piles of luggage from camps were numerous neat suitcases. The luggage is destined for all parts of the U. S., but it all might be classified "going home."

And "going home" is written on every young eager face. Girls released from the Government offices were not less happy than boys honorably discharged from army service. Both boys and girls accepted the burdens of war brought to them, and now once more they were free. And all could smile, for the Government has taken care that the going home should mean more than merely family reunions; that it should mean waiting positions, real chances to build for the future.

Through the United States Employment Service the most careful preparation has been made for reconstruction work. Each of its 900 branches has been asked by Mrs.

Margaret Neale, Chief of the Women's Division of the Service, to canvass its special community openings, and in this work the District of Columbia branch has given the fullest co-operation.

The Women's Division of the District of Columbia branch had provided first for the girls who desired to remain in Washington by obtaining lists of the needs of the bureaus to which peace will divert much business. These bureaus quickly absorbed many clerks, whose experience in Government work would be of value. In one case 42 girls were placed merely by a transfer from one department to another.

Careful inquiry of the various cases brought out the fact that large numbers of the girls were impatient to return to their homes. In many cases the clerks desired to go back to domestic responsibilities as scores had volunteered for war work while their husbands served in the army and navy. Most of the expert stenographers had the assurance that their old positions would be open to them when they returned.

One of the activities of the Employment Service has been to encourage applicants for minor clerkships to take Civil Service examinations, and more than 1000 girls have qualified for the test. These girls are in line for vacancies, and were filling emergency positions have been able to wait patiently for their chances to procure permanent positions.

The District Columbia branch of the United States Employment Ser-

1919 WHEAT WILL  
BRING \$2.26 SUREState Official Condemns Report  
That Peace Would Cut Price  
Of Grain

Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 24—Secretary Jewell Mayes of the state board of agriculture issued a statement today denouncing as "utterly false and harmful to farm values and securities" the rumor which has spread alleging that the treaty of peace would cut the \$2.26 wheat guarantee of the United States Government.

The treaty of peace will not in any way affect the \$2.26 per bushel wheat guarantee for the wheat crop to be harvested and marketed in the year 1919. The price will be maintained until June 1920.

Under authority of the Emergency Food Act, President Wilson, before the crop was planted, issued a proclamation decreeing that the 1919 wheat crop be sowed, grown, harvested and marketed on the basis of \$2.26 per bushel for No. 1 wheat.

The United States Food Administration has on unquestioned food grounds, reaffirmed the 1919 wheat price back of which is the pledged faith and Treasury credit of the nation which has never failed, the flag of which has never been defeated.

FIREBUGS BURN AN  
EAST SIDE STABLE

Saturday evening about 7 o'clock the barn of Jess Davis, a living on the Lewis farm, 2 miles southeast of St. Cape, was burned to the ground. The building belonged to Mr. Lewis and the contents consisting of corn, hay, and grain belonged to Mr. Davis, were a total loss. The building was valued at \$1,000 and the contents about the same.

The indications are very strongly that the fire was the work of incendiaries. Sunday morning the bloodhounds were brought down from Murphyboro, Ill., and while they trailed the surrounding country, no clue was obtainable.

vice does not expect many difficulties in the demobilization of the girls for their war work will end gradually, since the plan to disperse with about 1000 workers a week, and out of this number the proportion of those who desire to remain in Washington is not large enough to suggest serious consequences.

The main cause for the anxiety is that the period of nonemployment shall be as short as possible, or that it shall not exist at all. With living expenses at their present mark, this is a most important consideration. When it is remembered that women's first economy is generally in food, the danger of impaired vitality or even illness from undernourishment is to be avoided.

In the redistribution of the workers many will leave the Government service with experience that will be valuable and with training that will add to their efficiency. During the period of the war girls have been encouraged to improve themselves and to prepare for promotion. In numerous cases they have been able to raise the standard of their work and incidentally to increase salaries.